Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The question relates to a Sirkar Devaswam matter and hence the Government decline to answer.

Defalcation of Stamps in the Excise Office.

198. Mr. K. J. Antony.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) when was Mr. Sangameswara Ayyar's theft of stamps detected in the Excise Commissioner's Office, and what was the total value of the stamps stolen;

(b) when was the order of punishment passed against him?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—(a) In Meenam 1102, Rs. 30.

(b) 9th April 1929/27th Meenam 1104.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—May I know why this long delay in passing orders of punishment? The case was detected in Meenam 1102, and the order of punishment is dated 27th Meenam 1104. May I know why this long interval?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The Member for Excise is not here.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—If the Government can give an answer, I shall be satisfied. I have put the question to the Government and to the Member for Excise. Any Government Member can answer.

President.—This is a matter specially pertaining to that Department.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—In the matter of answering supplementary questions, any Government Member can answer. The Member for the Medical Department was in the practice of replying to questions relating to other Departments.

President.—You want an explanation for the long delay? The matter was under enquiry throughout the intervening period and after the enquiry was closed, final orders have been passed.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—May I know whether he has put in a petition for reconsidering his case?

President.—There was a petition.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—May I know how it was disposed of?

President.—I think there was a question on this matter on a previous day. There was a recommendation on the petition for reconsidering the order of the Diwan regarding the severity of the punishment awarded. The Superintendent recommended that some reduction in the punishment might be made and the Diwan passed orders revising this order. So final orders have been passed. You will find all this from the answer paper.

199. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state what orders have been passed by the Gov-

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ernment in the matter for which the departmental inquiry referred to in the answer to question No. 16 (c) of the Legislative Session of Vrischigam 1103 was conducted?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—Mr. Sangameswara Ayyar was suspended for 3 months, reduced to Rs. 60 grade and barred from promotion for one year. He was also ordered to pay Rs. 30, the value of stamps to be accounted for by him.

Articles in the Depot of the Tramway Department.

200. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state what are the existing articles in the depot stores of the Tramway Department and what is their value;

(2) are there any articles missing;

(3) if so, what are they and what is their value?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—(1) A statement showing the various items with their value is placed on the Council Table.

(2) No.

(3) No answer is required in view of the reply to (2) above.

Sale of timber and their rates.

201. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of (1) teak (2) ebony and (3) rosewood sold by the Conservator of Forests for prices (a) of Rs. 10 or more per candy up to Rs. 15 (b) less than Rs. 10 per candy for the years 1101, 1102 and 1103?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—

Rs. 10 or more up to Rs. 15.

	Teak.	*Rosewood.*
1101	917—23—17—3⅗	64—13—12—13¾
1102	3,577—10— 7—11¼	58—21— 2— 6½
1103	4,322— 7— 9— 1¼	53— 3—19— 7½
	Less than Rs. 10.	
1101	216—11— 0—10¼	16—15—13—14
1102	814—21— 4—15½	32— 9— 5— 1½
1103	2,210—14— 2— 3¾	10—10—22— 1

There were no sales of ebony at the above rates in the above three years.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—May I know what was the rate which was realised when the timber was sold by auction at Chalakkudi during the last auction? May I know what was the price realised with regard to rosewood?

Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.—There were different rates.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—What were the minimum and the maximum or the average?

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